Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078781

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNFICYP, CY, FR, EEC

SUBJECT: CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNFICYP

REF: PARIS 9820

1. QUAI'S DECISION TO INCLUDE UNFICYP CONTRIBUTION IN 1979 BUDGET REQUEST IS MOST ENCOURAGING, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT FOLLOWS ON HEELS OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL. EMBASSY SHOULD EXPRESS DEPARTMENT'S APPRECIATION TO ' OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THIS DECISION.

2. DURING CONSULTATIONS IN NEW YORK PRIOR TO 32 UNGA, FRENCH UN PERMREP LEPRETRE ALSO NOTED THAT IF POSITIVE DECISION WERE TAKEN IN QUAI ON UNFICYP CONTRIBUTION, CON-
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SIDERABLE OPPOSITION COULD BE ANTICIPATED IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE. AT THAT TIME, LEPRETRE ENCOURAGED A U.S. APPROACH TO MINISTRY OF FINANCE IN SUPPORT OF CONTRIBUTION. FRENCH UN MISSION IS VERY SENSITIVE TO DAMAGE TO FRANCE'S LARGER INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS FINANCE MINISTRY'S OPPO-SITION TO VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN PROGRAMS IS CAUSING. FRANCE ALMOST LOST UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

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POST FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BECAUSE OTHERS FOCUSED ON FRANCE'S POOR RECORD IN VOLUNTARY AREA. AS PERMANENT MEMBER OF SECRETARY COUNCIL AND MEDITERRANEAN POWER WITH CLOSE TIES

-. CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT, FRANCE HAS EVERY POLITICAL REASON FOR MAKING CONTRIBUTION TO UNFICYP.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER APPROACH TO MINISTRY OF FINANCE WOULD BE HELPFUL, AND, IF SO, HOW THIS APPROACH MIGHT BEST BE MADE. WOULD OFFICIALS IN QUAI, DESPITE LEPRETRE'S SUGGESTION, BE ANNOYED BY INTERVENTION WHICH ANY WASHING-TON EMBASSY WOULD CONSIDER ROUTINE BUT WHICH IN PARIS MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL? COULD THIS BE MORE EASILY RAISED AT THE PRIME MINISTER LEVEL?

4. FOR USUN. MISSION SHOULD ADVISE SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNFICYP THAT WE UNDFRSTAND POSITIVE GOF DECISION ON UNFICYP CONTRIBUTION IS POSSIBLE AND SUGGEST THAT LOW-KEY WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM SENIOR SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL, PERHAPS URQUHART, MIGHT HELP OVER-COME REMAINING OPPOSITION. REFLECTING CAVEAT PARA 2 REFTEL, MISSION SHOULD NOT AT THIS TIME REVEAL TO SECRE-TARIAT OFFICIALS THAT QUAI HAS REACHED POSITIVE DECISION AND THAT REMAINING ROADBLOCK APPEARS TO BE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE. VANCE
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